

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 65th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Call to Order: Chair Alan Doane, on February 3, 2017 at 8:00 AM, in Room 137 Capitol

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Alan Doane, Chair (R)
Rep. Seth Berglee, Vice Chair (R)
Rep. Virginia Court, Vice Chair (D)
Rep. Laurie Bishop (D)
Rep. Bob Brown (R)
Rep. Bill Harris (R)
Rep. Kathy Kelker (D)
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)
Rep. Theresa Manzella (R)
Rep. Nate McConnell (D)
Rep. Dale Mortensen (R)
Rep. Zac Perry (D)
Rep. Matt Regier (R)
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)
Rep. Barry Usher (R)
Rep. Kirk Wagoner (R)

Members Excused:

Rep. Jennifer Eck (D)
Rep. Ellie Hill Smith (D)
Rep. Shane A. Morigeau (D)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Sara Fleming, Committee Secretary
Helen Thigpen, Legislative Branch

Audio Committees: These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: HB 340, 1/30/2017; HB 342, 1/30/2017

HEARING ON HB 342**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

00:00:03 Rep. Ross Fitzgerald (R), HD 17, opened the hearing on HB 342, Revise business laws related to liability and agritourism.

00:03:22 Recess

00:22:14 Reconvene

00:23:25 Rep. Hill Smith joined the meeting

Proponents' Testimony:

00:25:27 Chris Christians, Montana Farmers Union

00:29:56 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union, Montana Water Resources Association

00:31:22 Rep. Morigeau joined the meeting

Opponents' Testimony:

00:33:43 Al Smith, Montana Trial Lawyers Association (MTLA)

EXHIBIT(juh25a01)

00:43:12 Don Judge, Self

Informational Testimony: None

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

00:46:02 Vice Chair Berglee

00:46:45 Al Smith, MTLA

00:48:43 Rep. Harris

00:50:02 Al Smith, MTLA

00:50:31 Rep. Kelker

00:51:22 Al Smith, MTLA

00:52:28 Rep. Kelker

00:52:41 Helen Thigpen, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

00:53:12 Vice Chair Court

00:53:45 Levi Ostberg, Montana Farmers Union, Montana Water Resources Association

00:54:14 Cort Jensen, Montana Department of Agriculture (MDA)

00:57:41 Rep. Harris

00:58:16 Cort Jensen, MDA

00:59:01 Rep. Bishop

01:00:08 Cort Jensen, MDA

Closing by Sponsor:

01:02:10 Rep. Fitzgerald

01:02:36 Rep. Eck joined the meeting

HEARING ON HB 340**Opening Statement by Sponsor:**

01:04:50 Rep. Derek Skees (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HB 340, Eliminate the office of political practices.

Proponents' Testimony: None**Opponents' Testimony:**

01:13:02 Evan Barrett, Self
01:21:06 Katy Westhoff, Montana Public Interest Research Group
01:23:05 Claudette Morton, Montana League of Women Voters
01:24:43 Dan Elliott, Self
01:26:02 Dani Hawlott, Common Cause Montana
01:26:45 Commissioner Jonathan Motl, Commissioner of Political Practices Office (COPP)

Informational Testimony:

01:30:48 Jon Bennion, Department of Justice (DOJ)
01:31:56 Derek Oestreicher, Secretary of States' Office (SOS)

[EXHIBIT\(juh25a02\)](#)**Questions from Committee Members and Responses:**

01:33:20 Rep. B. Brown
01:34:24 Jonathan Motl, COPP
01:37:49 Rep. Kelker
01:38:11 Evan Barrett, Self
01:42:22 Rep. Manzella
01:44:35 Vice Chair Court
01:45:02 Chair Doane
01:45:35 Rep. McConnell
01:46:11 Rep. Hill Smith
01:47:07 Rep. Manzella
01:47:37 Jonathan Motl, COPP
01:53:02 Rep. Manzella
01:53:12 Chair Doane
01:53:19 Rep. Morigeau
01:53:31 Chair Doane
01:53:41 Rep. Usher
01:53:58 Chair Doane
01:54:25 Rep. Harris
01:55:18 Evan Barrett, Self
01:56:19 Vice Chair Berglee
01:57:14 Rep. Hill Smith
01:57:34 Jon Bennion, DOJ
01:58:33 Jonathan Motl, COPP
02:03:03 Rep. C. Knudsen
02:05:28 Rep. Sheldon-Galloway
02:07:06 Evan Barrett, Self
02:11:28 Rep. B. Brown
02:12:19 Rep. Skees

02:13:27 Rep. Eck
02:13:45 Rep. Usher
02:15:33 Rep. Morigeau
02:16:11 Rep. Harris
02:16:42 Rep. Hill Smith
02:17:31 Rep. B. Brown
02:18:12 Chair Doane
02:19:44 Rep. Skees

[EXHIBIT\(juh25a03\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(juh25a04\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(juh25a05\)](#)

02:21:21 Rep. McConnell
02:22:09 Jon Bennion, DOJ
02:22:18 Vice Chair Berglee
02:23:20 Rep. Skees
02:24:55 Chair Doane
02:25:40 Derek Oestreicher, SOS
02:25:50 Rep. Bishop
02:27:03 Evan Barrett, Self
02:32:00 Rep. Regier
02:32:17 Jonathan Motl, COPP
02:32:40 Rep. Manzella

[EXHIBIT\(juh25a06\)](#)

02:33:06 Rep. Usher
02:34:49 Jonathon Motl, COPP
02:36:04 Rep. Harris
02:37:31 Evan Barrett, Self
02:43:14 Chair Doane
02:43:56 Rep. Manzella
02:45:05 Jonathon Motl, COPP
02:47:36 Rep. Manzella
02:47:55 Chair Doane
02:48:06 Jonathon Motl, COPP
02:49:03 Rep. Morigeau
02:49:34 Jonathon Motl, COPP
02:54:36 Chair Doane
02:55:32 Jonathan Motl, COPP
02:57:36 Rep. Usher
02:58:44 Jonathan Motl, COPP
03:03:39 Vice Chair Berglee
03:05:21 Jonathan Motl, COPP
03:08:01 Chair Doane
03:08:14 Jonathan Motl, COPP
03:11:55 Rep. Bishop
03:13:04 Chair Doane
03:13:23 Vice Chair Court
03:14:40 Jonathan Motl, COPP
03:18:04 Rep. Manzella

03:19:41 Jonathan Motl, COPP
03:21:45 Rep. Usher
03:23:42 Jonathon Motl, COPP
03:27:37 Chair Doane
03:27:43 Jonathon Motl, COPP

Closing by Sponsor:

03:28:16 Rep. Skees
[EXHIBIT\(juh25a07\)](#)

Committee Business:

03:36:08 Chair Doane

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 03:36:42

Sara Fleming, Secretary

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Additional Documents:

EXHIBIT([juh25aad.pdf](#))